

ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C.

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Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank

FLIGHTLINES

Marine Corps Birthday Meal

The New River chowhall invites all Station personnel to the Marine Corps Birthday Meal scheduled for today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The menu includes 'Surf and Turf' with all the trimmings.

It is free for meal card holders and costs \$4.55 for family members of servicemembers E-1 through E-4.

The price for all active duty servicemembers, retirees, guests, family members of servicemembers E-5 through E-9 and all others is \$5.25.

Joint Birthday Celebration

Joint Marine Corps birthday celebration and Commemorative Ceremony for Tarheel Mustangs, Marine Corps League and their guests is scheduled for today at 6 p.m. at the New River Staff Noncommissioned Officer Club.

For more information or to make reservations, call 347-4716.

Drug Warning

According to the Food and Drug Administration, Tetrahydrogestrinone or THG is now an illegal steroid. The U. S. government has also placed it on the list of drugs that government employees will be tested for.

Recently, THG has been sold in disguise as dietary and bodybuilding supplements, when in fact it's an illegal drug. This drug is a designer derivative of another form of anabolic steroids.

Anabolic steroids can have dangerous side effects to include liver damage, heart disease, anxiety, and rage.

While little is known about THG's specific effects because it is new, it has a close chemical similarity to other well-known steroids.

The U.S. Olympic Analytical Laboratory at UCLA, where the U.S. military sends its urinalysis samples for testing, will find it if Marines have been taking it.

Holiday Cheer

The Chaplain's office aboard New River is collecting food donations for holiday cheer. Any and all food donations are greatly appreciated. The donations need to be non-perishable food items.

The following is a list of suggested items to donate: cream of mushroom soup, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, yams, gravy, pumpkin pie filling, apple filling, boxed piecrust mix, instant potatoes, stuffing, Jiffy cornbread mix, biscuit mix and foil turkey tins.

For more information, contact the Chaplain's office at 449-6801.

Attention New River Personnel

The Station sergeant major and the Military Police District, New River, would like to remind all personnel that safety and the enforcement of rules is everyone's responsibility.

Air Station Order P5100.12F, chapter 3, paragraph 3001 8. a. (1) states that materials such as headlight shields, painted lenses and other objects that could interfere with the light beam are not permitted on or within the headlight.

ASO P5100.12F chapter 3, paragraph 3005 specifies that the use and display of

radar detection devices designed to indicate the presence of speed recording instrument or to transmit simulated erroneous speeds is prohibited aboard the Station, therefore any such equipment shall be placed in a glove compartment, in a trunk, or under a seat so as not to be accessible while operating a motor vehicle aboard the Station.

Questions pertaining to traffic safety requirements can be addressed to the Provost Marshal's Office at 449-6111 or Station Safety at 449-6143.

Single Marine Program

The SMP will be giving out free passes to be used at the Station movie theater, bowling alley and marina during the Veterans Day holiday weekend. The passes are valid from Nov. 7 - 11. Unit representatives should contact Beth at 449-5846 in order to receive their unit passes.

The SMP is also looking for volunteers to assist in building a Single Marine Program Holiday Parade float for the 2003 Jacksonville/Onslow County Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade on Nov. 22. Please contact Beth for more information.

The trip to the Pop Secret 400 NASCAR race at the North Carolina Speedway in Rockingham, N.C., is scheduled for Nov. 9.

Tickets are \$45 and includes transportation, breakfast and your ticket. The bus leaves from the parking lot behind the New River chowhall at 7:30 a.m., the race starts at 12:30 p.m.

Sign up and pay at the Marine Corps Community Service building.

For more information, contact Beth or Jenny or call your SMP office at 449-5846.

Emergency Assistance Office Relocated

The Department of Social Services (DSS) Emergency Assistance Office has been temporarily relocated to the main DSS office building at 1915 Onslow Drive Extension.

County residents wishing to apply for emergency assistance, CIP, Project Share, and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) should go to the main office building between the hours of 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 5 p.m.

Applications for LIEAP will be accepted through Nov. 14. The office will be closed all day on Nov. 11.

Motorcycle PME & Rally

The Military Police District, New River, will be hosting "Gears, Shafts and Sprockets" at the Station theater Nov. 19 from 12 to 3 p.m.

Appropriate civilian riding attire is authorized. Ride your bike to the rally and show it off, there will be reserved motorcycle parking.

Everyone is invited. Unit commanders are highly encouraged to direct riders and prospective riders to attend.

The agenda includes Marine Corps rules for the "two-wheeled", survival street strategies, street strategy discussion, a bike show and All-Terrain Vehicles safety.

For more information contact the Provost Marshal's Office at 449-6111.



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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

Battle Color graces Station crowd with performance

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Hundreds of civilians, servicemembers and their families watched the Commandant's Own Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon and the Color Guard in the well-known Battle Color Ceremony held at the Station football field Oct. 22.

"We saw them perform in Washington, D.C., a couple of years ago, and we thought they were awesome," said Pamela Truax, wife of Maj. William J. Truax, operations officer at Marine Wing Support Squadron-272. "The whole family wanted to come and see how flawless their performance was here [New River]."

The last time the Drum and Bugle Corps performed aboard the Station was in May 2002. Their usual performance consists of a six-song concert combined with a mix of creative marching skills, but because many of the band members were currently attending the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy aboard Camp Geiger, they were unable to perform the marching sequence of the concert, explained Staff Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell, the narrator for the ceremony and public affairs chief for the Battle Color Detachment.

Their program is entitled "Music in Motion," but even without the marching, the crowd was still fixated on every note played, added Bakewell.

After the Drum and Bugle Corps completed their program, the Silent Drill Platoon stealthily made their way onto the field. There were no vocal commands

needed for the platoon to begin.

Twenty-four Marines twirled and tossed M-1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets for 10 minutes of precise drill movements. The sound of their hands hitting the rifles could be heard at each end of the field as the audience paid close attention to what the platoon would do next.

"I know the Silent Drill Platoon performs the same routine on their tours to the different bases, but that doesn't matter because every time you see them perform, it's like you're seeing them for the first time again," said Sgt. Maj. Pedro Malu, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 sergeant major. "Everything about their performance is inspiring and expresses the true meaning of esprit de corps. It makes you proud of being a Marine."

In one portion of their program, the platoon is assembled in a line and the rifle inspector walks methodically down the line while keeping his eyes on each Marine. He then selects a Marine to mirror his rifle movements exactly. The inspector does the mirror routine twice before making his way to the end of the line.

Once the rifle inspector has taken his position, it's time for the Marines to reassemble back into platoon formation, which completes their program.

Afterward, the Color Guard took their post and the National Anthem was played. The pass in review concluded the Battle Color Ceremony.

The detachment finished the tour for the year on Oct. 23 at Camp Lejeune. They will begin touring early next year.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

The Commandant's Own Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Platoon and Color Guard performs Battle Color Ceremony for New River on Oct. 22.

'Black Knights' return to New River

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

More than 300 warfighters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 returned Oct. 22 after a nearly eight-month deployment with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

Hundreds of loved ones, family members and friends came from all over the United States to receive the "Black Knights" with arms wide open.

Although homecomings have recently been a common sight here, one thing made this one different. The sergeant major of the squadron, Sgt. Maj. Hayward Williams, tied the knot in front of the hangar, soon after he landed. His bride, Donna Roddy, is a technical sergeant in the Air Force, currently stationed at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, N.C.

Under the command of Lt. Col. N.

John Torres, HMM-264 flew a multitude of missions to include casualty evacuations, enemy prisoner of war transport, assault transport and presence missions over oil fields in Kirkuk, Iraq.

The squadron also conducted training exercises in Albania and Djibouti, supported real-world operations in Liberia and conducted combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, playing a key role in the movement of personnel.

"There's no feeling like being back," said Cpl. Christopher S. Merrill, motor transport operator with the squadron and Baltimore, Md., native. "Now I'm going home on leave to 'chill' and get away from the ship life."

Sergeant Jason D. Vieira, a refueler assigned to the squadron and Long Island, N.Y., native, said he was excited to be back in the United States, but will remain in the area before going

home to try to get a job with the New York Fire Department once he separates from the Corps.

While serving as the MEU's Aviation Combat Element, the squadron was reinforced by detachments from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461, Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167, Marine

Attack Squadron-223, Marine Air Control Group-28, Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadrons-26 and -14.

The 22nd MEU is scheduled to replace the 26th MEU (SOC) as the forward deployed element in the Mediterranean.



Sgt. Juan Vara

After nearly eight months of deployment with the 26th MEU (SOC), HMM-264 returned to New River and their families Oct. 22.

‘Raging Bulls’ land aviation award

Captain Robert B. Davis and Maj. Brian H. Wiktorek, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261 safety officer and operations officer, receive the Pete Ross Award for Marine Aviation Safety at the 2003 Marine Corps Aviation Association Unit Awards presentation held Oct. 25 in New Bern, N.C. Presenting the award are Skip Ringo, General Electric Aircraft Engines representative, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.



Sgt. Juan Vara

Station hosts 20th Beirut Memorial Banquet

Sgt. Juan Vara
correspondent

Approximately 475 Marines, Sailors, veterans and family members from all over the country met at the Station Officers' Club on Oct. 23 for a banquet in remembrance of the lives of the 241 servicemembers lost in the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, 20 years ago.

The 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, retired Gen. Alfred M. Gray, was the guest of honor. At the time, Gray was a major general, serving as commanding general of the 2nd Marine Division aboard Camp Lejeune.

The banquet, according to Richard L. Ray, a retired gunnery sergeant who served in Beirut, was organized by the Beirut Veterans of America and had been planned since April.

Among the many Beirut veterans present was retired Col. Timothy J. Geraghty, commanding officer of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit at the

time, who took the podium and reminisced about the tragic day.

"It was twenty years ago when I had the supreme privilege to lead some of the finest young men in America," said Geraghty. "They were special people trying to carry out a peacekeeping mission that changed very drastically under our watch. It was hard to carry out a peacekeeping mission when there was no peace. There isn't a day that goes by when you, the survivors and family members of those who died, are not in my prayers."

When Gray took the podium, he talked about how Marine Expeditionary Units have improved due to the effects of the Beirut bombing, stating that no MEU goes on deployment without being special operations capable.

"Each Marine in a Marine Expeditionary Unit carries the essence of those lost in Beirut," said Gray.

In a special moment, Angel Diaz, a former Marine from North Bergen, N.J., presented Gray with a photograph of

them taken aboard the USS Nashville (LPD-13) while docked at Hudson Harbor, N.Y., in 1986.

Diaz was a lance corporal when he arrived in Beirut with the 22nd MAU in 1983 and later had the opportunity to meet Gray during the centennial of the Statue of Liberty.

They met again three years later aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., when Gray signed the photograph and asked Diaz to mail him a copy, but while transitioning to civilian life, Diaz misplaced the card with Gray's address.

"I made it a point that even if I had to come all the way out here to bring him this framed photograph I was going to do so and present it to him personally," said Diaz. "I was very pleased that he was the guest of honor for the twentieth-year reunion."

According to Diaz, he's carried the motivation, discipline and tenacity learned as a Marine onto civilian life,

See BEIRUT, page 8



Sgt. Juan Vara

Colonel Dave Hough, 1/8 commanding officer, poses with Israel Crespo, NYPD detective, after receiving a commemorative plaque from the NYPD's counterterrorism division Oct. 23.

Uncommon valor in unusual circumstances

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng
correspondent

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey Jarrett and Petty Officers 2nd Class Terry Peace and Shannon Washburn, Marine Aircraft Group-29 medical corpsmen, found themselves in a very sticky situation more than once, and their actions were recognized with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat device for valor.

It was supposed to be one simple casualty evacuation mission with only a few injured, but as usual in any combat scenario, almost nothing goes as planned, and it turned into five days of life or death situations.

It began for these corpsmen with a call to CASEVAC: three gunshot-wound victims from Nasiriayh. By the time the CH-46E Sea Knights circled the landing zone the "devil docs" could see the firefight that ensued, and were shocked to see a pit of bodies. The helicopters landed opposite the berm that separated the enemy from the Marines.

That's when the exchange of fire went from a small firefight to a raging battle. All of a sudden there were High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles, tanks, Amphibious Assault Vehicles and Light Armored Reconnaissance vehicles all sending rounds down range as Task Force Tarawa was taking mortar fire.

At this point many would be thinking 'get me out of here,' but all three corpsmen went into autopilot as Washburn put it.

"All you can think about is 'where's the ground corpsmen with my casualties'," said Jarrett.

"You can hear the rumble of the tanks and the smell of gun powder. When you can feel the force of a mortar blast you know you're close," said Peace.

"It was absolute mass confusion, and the stench of dead bodies, blood and the city was almost overwhelming," said Washburn.

They all agreed that Jarrett put it best, "It's totally surreal, a complete sensory overload, except for your hearing. Everything is muffled from the helmet, and you're straining to hear the ground corpsman who's screaming directions at you."

While the CASEVAC corpsmen were trying desperately to get the seven wounded enemy prisoners of war on the aircraft, they became the target.

The Iraqis were "walking in" mortar rounds toward the helicopter. The rounds kept getting closer and closer.

Before they could get all the EPWs inside the aircraft, the last litter team, led by Jarrett, had to drop the wounded Iraqi they were carrying and hit the deck after a mortar round exploded dangerously close.

"It was surprising no one got hit by shrapnel," said Washburn.

Finally, with the last patient aboard the Sea Knight took off.

"This is where it got ugly ..." said Peace.

The aircraft was on its way to Talill where an Army hospital was set up, but they were re-routed because the hospital was full. They were told to land and transfer their patients to an Army UH-60 Black Hawk so the EPWs could be transferred to a hospital

in Kuwait, but they found out Kuwait wasn't taking prisoners.

Washburn said they waited in the middle of the desert for forty-five minutes while the Army tried to find someplace to take the wounded for better care. For some reason no one had communication with USS Comfort or other secondary hospital ships, not to mention the Shock Trauma Platoons in the area.

"We tapped the bottom of the barrel as far as medical care is concerned," said Peace. "We used everything we had on those guys."

Washburn said he was completely frustrated with the situation.

"One of my patients had blood just squirting out of his chest," said Peace. "I was trying to pack gauze into the wound, but I couldn't get the flies out of his chest."

Finally, Washburn said they had to tell the lead medic that two of the wounded were dying, and they needed better care immediately. The Black Hawk crew loaded up the patients and while flying around finally found a hospital that could take the wounded EPWs.

With the wounded out of their care now and the mission essentially over, said Washburn, there was one more "pleasant" surprise; his aircraft had a broken hydraulic pump.

"I walked back into the bird and there's the crew chief and aerial gunner looking at the ceiling and scratching their heads," said Washburn. "I was like, please don't tell me what I think you're going to tell me."

Jarrett said he took that mission at the beginning of the war as a sign of things to come and felt wise to think that.

That night, the aircraft that was still able to fly, Jarrett and Peace's aircraft, was called on for another mission. They had to fly with an Army Black Hawk

crew and supply their medics with weapons, because normal Army MEDEVAC missions don't call for medics to carry weapons.

As it turned out, it was basically a repeat of the earlier mission that day, said Peace. They picked up seven wounded EPWs. Unfortunately they were hostile, which meant while Peace treated their wounds Jarrett had to stand behind him with his pistol at the ready, and vice versa.

When they landed, they expected to drop off the EPWs. Instead they received three additional passengers on the already crowded flight, a civilian and his two young children who were wounded from tank blasts.

The aircraft was so full that Peace had to hold the hysterical little two-year-old girl in his arms for the rest of the flight.

Once again they had no place to drop off the wounded. They had to land at a forward arming and refueling point to refuel twice before they found a hospital to take them. Once the Iraqis were in custody they flew back to their makeshift camp.

Meanwhile, back in the middle of the desert somewhere, Washburn and the rest of the crew expected that once the parts to fix the downed aircraft were flown in the next day that would be the end of their stay in the desert. But early the next morning, a sand storm blew in and grounded everything that flew.

While stranded in the sand storm, they received another mission in the middle of the night. They were told not to worry about flying in the sandstorm because they were going in on the ground.

They were escorted to the Force Reconnaissance headquarters tent and got a crash course in special

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courtesy photo

During the battle in Nasiriayh, several Marine Aircraft Group-29 corpsmen rush toward a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter with casualties. Their mission was to do their best to keep the casualties alive until they reach a field hospital in Iraq.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

'Ironhorse' returns home

(left) After seven months of providing flexibility to support a wide variety of counterterrorism activities to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in the eastern African nation of Djibouti, Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 reunited with their families Saturday.

(right) Families wait at the HMH-461 hangar for their loved ones to return from deployment.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Okinawa, Iwakuni tours extended

Headquarters Marine Corps public affairs office

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, has changed the assignment policy for tour lengths for Marines going to III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Smedley D. Butler and MCAS Iwakuni to 36-month tours with family members or 24-month tours without families. The policy change will be phased in over several years, starting with senior officers and enlisted and is projected to be fully implemented by 2008. The policy was changed to create greater continuity, unit stability and individual maturity, cultural knowledge and familiarity with local and regional military forces,

governments and private citizens and to improve knowledge of continuing operational requirements within III MEF.

The Marine Corps assignment policy to Okinawa and Iwakuni, Japan, currently stands apart from the other services in that Marines assigned without family members to Okinawa and Iwakuni have been given 12-month versus 24-month permanent change of station orders. In 1987, the Marine Corps petitioned the Department of Defense and was granted an exception to the DoD assignment directive in order to manage operational tempo and to improve quality of life for Marines and their families.

At the time the waiver of the DoD policy was enacted, personnel on Okinawa faced isolation and

hardships due to a limited support infrastructure. Over the past 16 years, however, due to numerous quality-of-life initiatives, improved living conditions, and both inter and intra-theater travel opportunities, life for Marines and their families has improved dramatically. Furthermore, the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) provided to members serving tours with family members has proven ample compensation for the additional financial burdens incurred living overseas.

In February, the commanding general, III MEF requested a revalidation of current assignment practices to Okinawa and Iwakuni. Last month, the issue was discussed again and decided at a meeting between the Commandant of the Marine Corps and three- and four-star Marine generals.

Questions and Answers

Has an official decision been made for 2-year unaccompanied overseas deployments?

- The Commandant of the Marine Corps has approved a proposal to change the policy of tour lengths to a 36/24 policy, versus the current 36/12 policy.

Who made this decision?

- The Commandant of the Marine Corps approved a policy change this month following a request for a review of the current policy initiated by the commanding general of III

MEF in February 2003.

What was the reason?

- The policy was changed to create greater continuity, unit stability and individual maturity, cultural knowledge and familiarity with local and regional military forces, governments and private citizens, and to improve knowledge of continuing operational requirements.

Will this affect accompanied tours? Will there be fewer accompanied tours?

- Assignments are dictated by the requirement to fill billets at any location. The family status of the Marine eligible for the billet will dictate the duration of the assignment that a Marine receives.

Each Marine with family members will first be considered for a 36-month tour with his or her family. Those Marines may choose instead to receive a 24-month assignment without family members. This portion of the policy is in line with the Department of Defense policy applied by the other Services.

What is that DoD policy?

- DoD directive 1315.7 directs that the standard overseas tour will be 36 or 24 months for locations with quality-of-life conditions reasonably comparable to U.S. standards. This policy was waived in 1987 for the Marine Corps for III MEF assignments to allow for a 12-month tour by those Marines ordered overseas without family members.

**Editor's note: For more information contact the Installation Personnel Administration Center.*



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

Garrion Ligon and other students from the East Coast Homeschool Organization take the opportunity to pretend they are pilots of the CH-46E Sea Knight trainer on their tour of NAMTRAMAR on Oct. 28.

New River gets home schooled

Cpl. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

A group of approximately 35 home schooled children visited the Station Oct. 27 for a field trip.

The children, who are all part of the East Coast Homeschool Organization (ECHO), were studying the anniversary of the Wright brothers and were here to see the helicopters.

"We have themes for each month and this month was the Wright brothers," said Nini Welch, ECHO secretary and native of Louiston, Idaho. "We were hoping to facilitate for the children so they could see the aircraft here."

The kids' first stop was Naval Air Maintenance Marine Training Unit New River, where they would see the "birds." NAMTRAMAR offers four CH-53E Super Stallion trainers, one CH-46E Sea Knight trainer and two MV-22 Osprey trainers.

The children had the opportunity to climb on and pretend they were flying each of these helos.

"I was really surprised when we walked over to the Osprey hangar," said Donna Hoover, home school mother and native of Athens, Tenn. "The children really loved pushing the buttons and climbing on the trainers."

The next stop was the Station

Weather Center, where they learned about the effects that weather has on flying. The youngsters were given a complete tour of the center and shown the radars and satellite shots. Afterward they released and tracked a weather balloon into the sky.

After a brief lunch at the marina, the children watched a Military Working Dog demonstration given by the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit at the Station Kennels.

The dogs performed aggression, non-aggression and drug finding techniques. At the end, the kids walked through the kennel and saw each one of the dogs up close.

"It is important for us as Marines to keep involved with our community and accommodate them when they want to come aboard and see what we are doing," said Gunnery Sgt. Marvin E. Whitehurst, CH-46E Sea Knight chief instructor and native of El Paso, Texas. "Many of these children's parents are Marines so we help broaden their horizons when they see our various jobs, and sometimes even help make career decisions by seeing us."

ECHO provides support for home school families in Eastern North Carolina and aboard Camp Lejeune. You can find more information about their home school program at www.echo-onslow.org.

VALOR

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weaponry.

"There was a very touching moment in the tent when a sergeant in the platoon whipped out a bottle of whiskey after the brief and passed it around," said Peace.

An hour later they where off down Ambush Alley in Nasiriayh, driving through two ambush points.

"All I could think about as we drove down the road was 'I am not going out like this,'" said Jarrett. "The fear factor was definitely raised because what would have been a 15-minute flight was now a two-hour drive."

There were destroyed vehicles all over the road, mostly American.

"I totally didn't feel safe," continued Jarrett. "We were all on our toes, told to shoot anything that moved. I just kept waiting for an Iraqi to pop up and send an RPG round our way."

Everything in the back of the hummer was cramped, said Washburn. Between all the people, rounds and medical gear, moving around wasn't an option.

Just as Jarrett had thought earlier, he said he knew this mission wasn't going to go the way it was planned. But the question remained, to what

extent would the mission change?

Peace said he wasn't exactly relaxed driving along a road nicknamed "Ambush Alley," but he said if he had to do that kind of mission he knew was with the right Marines and felt more at ease just looking at all the fire power they brought along.

When they got to the pick-up point they were faced with 32 wounded Americans and 31 EPWs. Luckily they were already loaded onto seven-ton trucks. They drove back down Ambush Alley and took the wounded Marines to safety at Camp Viper, in the vicinity of the Jalibah airstrip. The truck with the EPWs broke off from the convoy and went to another hospital.

"We did everything right that night to stay alive," said Jarrett.

"Unfortunately one of the Marines died that night in transit to Camp Viper," said Peace. "If it weren't for that, it would've been a happily-ever-after story," he said grimly.

They all agreed the bottom line was they did their job for those long five days they were stranded by the sand storm and none of it would have been possible if it weren't for the crews they flew with into Iraq.

BEIRUT

from page 5

and that's helped him succeed; he graduated in June from the law program at Seton Hall Law School, Newark, N.J.

"Everyday I looked at that photograph and it gave me inspiration and motivation," said Diaz. "I can honestly say that with that motivation I went to college, graduated with a bachelor's degree, and I recently graduated law school, and I hope to one day be a prosecutor in the state of New Jersey."

Israel Crespo, a detective with the counterterrorism division of the New York Police Department and a former Marine assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, took the podium and talked about a young lieutenant who he served with 20 years ago.

"Colonel Dave Hough," shouted

Crespo, "front and center!!!"

The officer is nowadays the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment and was present at the banquet.

Hough was presented with a commemorative plaque from the members of the NYPD counterterrorism division. Engraved on it are the words "We will never forget."

The Beirut Veterans Association was formed in May of 1992. Its goals are to guard the memory of the fallen servicemembers and their sacrifice for our country; promote and support the interest of its veterans and their survivors; and promote public understanding of the nature, requirements and obligations of peacekeeping in foreign nations.

As the cornerstone of the BVA's goals "the first duty is to remember".

Operation Big Sweep a success



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

More than 75 Marines from Station Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron and Camp Geiger's School of Infantry along with 15 civilians participated in the Big Sweep project held at the Station Marina on Oct. 24. Approximately four miles of area was covered.

New River mess facility best on East Coast



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

The Station dining facility received the Ney Hill Award on Oct. 29 for best East Coast Regional Mess Garrison ran by military and civilian personnel.

Honoring those past, present

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Western Boulevard was flooded Saturday morning as thousands of people came to show their support, appreciation, patriotism and pride for retired, reserve or active duty military during the Veterans Day Parade.

The parade featured scouts from various troops, high school bands, veteran organizations from around the area, local law enforcement agencies and representatives from MCAS New River and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

“It’s always nice to see people coming out to show their support for every veteran,” said Roger Alvis, retired Air Force technical sergeant and director of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, North Carolina Division. “Before, not many people thought veterans from the Confederate armies should be recognized, but they also fought and sacrificed for their country and should be remembered for that.”

This was the SCV’s fourth year participating in the parade and they hope they represented the Confederate veterans well.

“It was definitely a salute to the troops, it almost brings tears to the eyes to see all the support the community has shown to the

different veterans organizations and the troops,” said Steven Schmiz, retired Marine Corps master sergeant currently residing in Jacksonville.

After the parade, servicemembers and their families were invited to attend the United Service Organizations’ third annual “Salute to the Troops” celebration. Free food and refreshments were provided for those in attendance. Entertainment was provided by the USO Troop performers, The Conductors and The Mike Corrado Band.

The celebration was in honor of those veterans who served in past wars, those who are presently serving and those who will serve in the future, explained Judy Pitchford, executive director at the USO.

“This celebration is for everyone,” added Pitchford.

The party at the USO ended with “the Hooters Girls” autographing calendars and posing for pictures.

Marking the end of World War I, Nov. 11, 1918 was declared a legal holiday known as “Armistice Day,” dedicated to honor World War I veterans. After the end of World War II, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Proclamation 3071, Oct. 8, 1954, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day, a day to honor veterans of all wars.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Students from Jacksonville High School marched down Western Boulevard while twirling North Carolina state flags as the band followed behind them during the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

The 2nd Marine Division Band, out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, participated in the parade and provided ceremonial music for the Marine units marching, honoring veterans of all wars.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Members of Rolling Thunder organization, chapter three out of Wilmington, performed figure eights, blowouts, crossover and other routines during the parade Saturday.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

The Conductors entertained servicemembers and their families at the USO’s third annual “Salute to the Troops” celebration Saturday.

'Patriots' cover down & 'dress it up'

Headed by Lt. Cols. Carmine J. Borrelli and Ludovic M. Baudoin d'Ajoux, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 executive officer and commanding officer, dozens of "Patriots" run around New River wearing costumes, terrorizing Station personnel and spreading the Halloween spirit here during their annual Halloween fun run Friday.



Sgt. Juan Vara



A Long Tradition Of Participation

American Indians have participated with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years.

Many tribes were involved in the War of 1812, and Indians fought for both sides as auxiliary troops in the Civil War. Scouting the enemy was recognized as a particular skill of the Native American soldier. In 1866, the U.S. Army established its Indian Scouts to exploit this aptitude. The Scouts were active in the American West in the late 1800s and early 1900s, accompanying Gen. John J. Pershing's expedition to Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa in 1916. They were deactivated in 1947 when their last member retired from the Army in ceremonies at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. Native Americans from Indian Territory were also recruited by Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and saw action in Cuba in the Spanish-American War in 1898. As the military entered the 20th century, American Indians had already made a substantial contribution through military service and were on the brink of playing an even larger role.

It is estimated that more than 12,000 American Indians served in World War I. Approximately 600 Oklahoma Indians, mostly Choctaw and Cherokee, were assigned to the 142nd Infantry of the 36th Texas-Oklahoma National Guard Division. The 142nd saw action in France and its soldiers were widely recognized for their contributions in battle. Four men from this unit were awarded the Croix de Guerre, while others received the Church War Cross for gallantry.

The outbreak of World War II brought American Indians warriors back to the battlefield in defense of their homeland. Although now eligible for the draft by virtue of the Snyder Act, which gave citizenship to American Indians in 1924, conscription alone does not account for the disproportionate number of Indians who joined the armed services. More than 44,000 American Indians, out of a total Native American population of less than 350,000, served with distinction between 1941 and 1945 in both European and Pacific theaters of war. Native American men and women on the home front also showed an intense desire to

serve their country, and were an integral part of the war effort. More than 40,000 Indian people left their reservations to work in ordinance depots, factories, and other war industries. American Indians also invested more than \$50 million in war bonds, and contributed generously to the Red Cross and the Army and Navy Relief societies.

Battle-experienced American Indian troops from World War II were joined by newly recruited Native Americans to fight Communist aggression during the Korean conflict. The Native Americans' strong sense of patriotism and courage emerged once again during the Vietnam era. More than 42,000 Native Americans, more than 90 percent of them volunteers, fought in Vietnam. Native American contributions in United States military combat continued in the 1980s and 1990s as they saw duty in Grenada, Panama, Somalia and the Persian Gulf.

Native Americans have distinctive cultural values, which drive them to serve their country. This characteristic has been clearly demonstrated by the courageous deeds of Native Americans in combat. However, the warrior tradition is best exemplified by the following qualities said to be inherent to most if not all Native American societies: strength, honor, pride, devotion, and wisdom. These qualities make a perfect fit with military tradition.

To be an American Indian warrior is to have physical, mental, and spiritual strength. A warrior must be prepared to overpower the enemy and face death head-on.

American Indians have fought heroically in all of last century's wars and armed conflicts. They have not only been formally recognized for their bravery through military decoration but through anecdotal observation as well.

More important, however, is the warrior's spiritual strength. Many traditional cultures recognize that war disrupts the natural order of life and causes a spiritual disharmony. To survive the chaos of war is to gain a more intimate knowledge of life. Therefore, military service is a unique way to develop an inner strength that is valued in Native American society.

American Indian Medal of Honor recipients

In the 20th century, five American Indians have been among those soldiers to be distinguished by receiving the United States' highest military honor: the Medal of Honor. Given for military heroism "above and beyond the call of duty," these warriors exhibited extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy and, in two cases, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Jack C. Montgomery. A Cherokee from Oklahoma, and a first lieutenant with the 45th Infantry Division. On Feb. 22 1944, near Padiglione, Italy, Montgomery's rifle platoon was under fire by three echelons of enemy forces, when he single-handedly attacked all three positions, taking prisoners in the process. As a result of his courage, Montgomery's actions demoralized the enemy and inspired his men to defeat the Axis troops.

Ernest Childers. A Creek from Oklahoma, and a first lieutenant with the 45th Infantry Division. Childers received the Medal of Honor for heroic action in 1943 when, up against machine gun fire, he and eight men charged the enemy. Although suffering a broken foot in the assault, Childers ordered covering fire and advanced up the hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests, and capturing an enemy mortar observer.

Van Barfoot. A Choctaw from Mississippi, and a second lieutenant in the 45th Infantry Division. On May 23, 1944, during the breakout from Anzio to Rome, Barfoot knocked out two machine gun nests and captured 17 German soldiers. Later that same day, he repelled a German tank assault, destroyed a Nazi fieldpiece and while returning to camp carried two wounded commanders to safety.

Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. A Winnebago from Wisconsin, and a corporal in Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment in Korea. On Nov. 5, 1950, Red Cloud was on a ridge guarding his company command post when he was surprised by Chinese communist forces. He sounded the alarm and stayed in his position firing his automatic rifle and point-blank to check the assault. This gave his company time to consolidate their defenses. After being severely wounded by enemy fire, he refused assistance and continued firing upon the enemy until he was fatally wounded. His heroic action prevented the enemy from overrunning his company's position and gained time for evacuation of the wounded.

Charles George. A Cherokee from North Carolina, and private first class in Korea when he was killed on Nov. 30, 1952. During battle, George threw himself upon a grenade and smothered it with his body. In doing so, he sacrificed his own life but saved the lives of his comrades. For this brave and selfless act, George was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1954.



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